CHOLMONDELEY SOUND UNIT
WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Sitka Blacktailed Deer

The Cholmondeley Sound drainage probably provides blacktailed deer
habitat of average quality and quantity, when compared to the rest of
Prince of Wales Island. Although some areas certainly serve as key deer
winter range, these areas were not identified. Leopold (1972) indicates
on Admiralty Island nearly all areas below 500' - 700' elevation serve
as winter range and that key areas are commonly found under dense,
mature timber growing on points, knobs, and ridges near the beachline
and on well drained slopes and ridges between 200' and 500' elevation
in valleys away from beaches.

Recommendations

. . . . key deer winter ranges
. . . . Timber harvesting should be avoided in
Leopold (1972) referring to Admiralty Island states the only practical
way to preserve key deer winter ranges is to refrain from cutting them.
Assuming three entries over the 100-year rotation period, the last one-
third of deer winter range should not be cut until the first one-third
is providing good deer winter range. Manipulation probably will be
necessary as it is unlikely a clearcut will revert to good deer winter
range naturally in a 100-year period.

Clearcuts in deer winter range, to provide increased diversity of habitat
and edge, should be small, less than 40 acres, and well dispersed with
leave areas between natural clearings and other cutblocks at least one
quarter mile wide.

If deer winter range is cut to the beach, then all timber should be
taken from the block and beach cleanup required. Thin fringes of blow-
down susceptible trees along the beach should not be retained. Beach
cleanups should require moving all logging caused debris above the high
tide line.

Grassy Tidal Flats

These areas are normally extensively used by, and apparently vital to,
many wildlife forms including ducks, geese, bear, wolf, and furbearers.
Tidal flats in Cholmondeley Sound were no exception, and evidence of
all these wildlife uses was found. The more important tidal flats,
from a wildlife view, are shown on the attached map, although not all
tidal flats in the Sound were surveyed.

Recommendation

Management activities, including logging and road construction, should
not take place adjacent to these tide flats. A buffer zone of approxi-
mately one quarter mile should be retained around each designated tide
flat.

Marine Mammals

Harbor seals, Stellers sea lion, and Dall porpoise were commonly observed
in the Sound. Humpback whales less commonly so. Land management activities
should have little effect on these animals.

Furbearers

Large numbers of furbearers including land otter, mink, pine marten, and
beaver are found in the Cholmondeley Sound drainage. If recommendations
for timber harvesting in deer winter range and near tide flats are
followed, most furbearer habitat should also be afforded adequate protec-
tion.

Non-game Mammals and Birds

Large numbers of a variety of non-game bird species seasonally frequent
the Cholmondeley Sound drainage. Additionally, many non-game mammal
and bird species are resident. Land management activities may not
significantly affect these forms except very locally in the area of the
activity. However, so little is known about the habitat requirements of
these migratory and resident forms that it is really very premature
to attempt to determine how timber harvesting by clearcutting will affect
these species.

Recommendations

Plan cutblock to be as small and as irregularly shaped as possible. This
will increase the diversity of habitat and effect of edge, resulting in
greater benefits to non-game species of birds and mammals.

Snags are important to raptors, jays, flycatchers, woodpeckers, and other
birds for perching and nesting. At least one hard and two soft snags
should be retained per each five acres in cutblocks.

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LITERATURE CITED

Leopold, A. Starker and Reginald H. Barrett. 1972.
    Implications for Wildlife of the 1968 Juneau Unit Timber Sale:
    A Report to U. S. Plywood - Champion Papers, Inc. University of
    California, Berkeley. 47 p w/figures and appendices.